ANNFIELD PLAIN Dur

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

FOR THE YEAR 1920.

DIPTON :
Printed by C. MORDUE,

1921.

INACLETE HOUSE,
ANNFIELD PLAIN,
APRIL 1921.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,—

I beg to submit for your consideration, the following Report upon the Health and General Sanitary Condition of the District for the year 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Area, &c., of the Parishes.

	Kyo	Collierley and Pontop	Greencroft Within	TOTAL
Area of District ... (Acres) ...	1,184	1,164	691	3,489
Population ... (1911 Census) ...	8,169	5,981	2,420	16,552
Rateable Value	£26,540/5/0	£19,497/15/0	£11,294/10/0	£57,332/10/0

Registrar General Estimated Population - 16,781.

The Annfield Plain Urban District includes within its boundaries the Parishes of Collierley, Kyo and Greencroft Within. It was constituted an Urban District in 1896, and it comprises an area of high ground varying from 700 to 1,030 feet above the sea level. Pontop Pike, one of highest points in the County, is within its boundary.

The drainage of the district is good, as the land slopes into valleys on three sides, the water ultimately being carried into the rivers Derwent, Tyne and Wear.

The soil, mainly clay overlying coal measures, covers the greater part of the District.

Six Collieries operate in the District, with others immediately outside the boundary, giving steady employment to practically all the able-bodied men in the area.

The population are well fed and clothed, and fairly healthy.

Newcastle has the nearest Hospital, to which severe accidents at the mines are sent.

The more densely populated parts of the area are to be found in the scattered villages of Annfield Plain, Greencroft, East Castle, Dipton, Hill Top, White-le-Head, and West Kyo.

Vital Statistics.

The uncorrected Vital Statistics for the County are considered satisfactory, the total death and infant mortality rates being the lowest on record. The local total death-rate is ·50 above the County rate, but the zymotic rate is somewhat lower. Our highest rates are due to deaths from diphtheria, acute respiratory and infantile diseases the latter being considerably above the County rate. Deaths from congenital debility, &c., this year, as always, constitute a rather larger per centage than is desirable. This unfortunate rate we are forced to attribute to utter carelessness in many instances, the absence of periodical rest, and the unhygienic surroundings of many women when in the pregnant state. Unfortunately, many mothers in districts such as this cannot, owing to the exigencies of the daily work of the toilers, receive time, either day or night, for the physiological amount of rest which nature claims at the child bearing period, therefore, the child comes into the world either deformed, debilitated or prematurely.

The following Table gives the averages of the births and deaths, &c., for the County in comparison with those of the District.

	County.	Annfield Plain
	(per 1000 population)	
Birth-rate	30·02	32·90
Death-rate	12·31	12·81
Zymotic death-rate	1·00	0·77
Small Pox...	nil	nil
Scarlet Fever	0·10	0·12
Diphtheria	0·17	0·48
Enteric Fever	0·01	nil
Measles	0·20	0·06
Whooping Cough	0·11	nil
Diarrhœa (under 2)...	0·38	0·12
Phthisis death-rate	0·75	0·36
Influenza „	0·23	0·12
Acute Respiratory Diseases	2·55	3·10
Infantile Mortality-rate	106 per 1000 births	125·00

Causes of Death in Annfield Plain Urban District, 1920.

Causes of Death. Civilians only.	Males	Females.
All Causes	117	98
1 Enteric Fever		
2 Small-pox		
3 Measles	1	
4 Scarlet fever	1	1
5 Whooping-cough		
6 Diphtheria and Croup	1	
7 Influenza	2	7
8 Erysipelas		
9 Pulmonary Tuberculosis	2	4
10 Tuberculous Meningitis	2	1
11 Other tubercular diseases	1	3
12 Cancer, malignant disease	5	7
13 Rheumatic Fever		
14 Meningitis	2	3
15 Organic Heart disease	13	10
16 Bronchitis	14	6
17 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	12
18 Other respiratory diseases ...	4	2
19 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	2	
20 Appendicitis and Typhlitis... ...		
21 Cirrhosis of Liver	1	1
21A Alcoholism		
22 Nephritis and Bright's Disease ...	3	3
23 Puerperal fever		1
24 Parturition, apart from puerperal fever...		3
25 Congenital Debility &c.	18	17
26 Violence, apart from Suicide ...	6	1
27 Suicide		
28 Other Defined Diseases	24	16
29 Causes ill-defined or unknown ...	1	
Special causes (included above) ...		
Cerebro-spinal fever		
Poliomylitis		
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age ...		
Total	36	33
Illegitimate	3	3
Total Births	282	270
Legitimate	266	258
Illegitimate	16	12
Population for Births and Deaths ...	16781	

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Summary of work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1920.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.		Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by Order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	GENERAL REMARKS.
Dwelling houses and Schools.	Foul conditions	15	...	15	Houses and yards dirty
	Structural defects	36	2	30	Roofs, plaster windows
	Overcrowding	39	...	3	Shortage of houses
Lodging-houses		6	...	6	Limewashing, &c.
Dairies and Milkshops		23	23	4	Defective light, vetilation, floors, overcrowding, absence of proper dairy, &c.
			...		
			...		
			...		
Cowsheds		...	...	...	
Bakehouses		...	...	...	
Slaughter-houses		5	...	5	Limewashing, drainage
Ashpits and Privies		18	...	18	Doors to repair, &c.
Deposits of Refuse and Manure		36	...	36	
Water-closets		17	...	15	Defective, basins, cisterns &c.
Defective Yard Paving		20	2	16	Yards relaid, &c.
House Drainage	Defective Traps	13	...	11	Structural alterations, defective traps, choked, &c.
	No Disconnection from Sewers	...	...	...	
	Other Faults	49	...	49	
Water Supply		...	...	.	
Pigsties		5	...	4	Removed
Animals Improperly Kept		14	...	41	Fowls, &c. in yards
Offensive Trades		...	...	...	
Smoke Nuisances		...	...	...	
Other Nuisances		...	...	...	Defects in windows, fire-place, no proper food store, dampness, &c.
Applications under Rent Act		14	...	...	To be considered after three months from application.
House Refuse in Streets, &c.		18	...	18	
Theatre		1	1	1	
Throwing Water in Ashpits, &c., Scavenging Overdue		57	...	57	
Totals...		386	28	302	

The degree of interest taken by a Community in the sanitation of their district—in their homes and surroundings—is the index finger which points to progress, social and ethical, or stagnation, apart from its importance to the health and indirectly to the prosperity of a Community. Inattention to one's sanitary surroundings always indicates a rudimentary civilization, however much one should be inclined to think otherwise.

Lodging Houses.

There are two lodging houses in the District, one at Flint Hill and one at Hill Top. They are registered for 45 and 32 lodgers respectively. Six notices were served during the year, the nuisances complained of having been abated. These premises are regularly visited.

Poultry in Yards.

There is no objection to rearing poultry under proper conditions of housing, but back-yards are scarcely ideal places for this purpose, either from the point of view of productiveness of the poultry or for sanitary reasons.

During the War, the reprehensible practice of using back-yards for keeping poultry became prevalent. It was a food question, and so long as careful supervision of sanitary conditions were observed, the practice was not interfered with. Now, however the food question has eased considerably, and sanitary requirements must be attended to. Allotments are numerous in the District, in close proximity to many of the houses, and these should be utilized in preference to back-yards where possible. Those who may still retain the poultry in their back-yards must cease the practice without further delay.

WATER, FOOD AND DRUGS.

Samples of Water taken for Analysis	—
,, ,, condemned as unfit for use ...	—
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	14
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—
,, ,, found Adulterated	—

Water Supply.

There is no complaint against the purity of the water supplied to our district. The water is soft, devoid of plumbo-solvent action, and is collected chiefly from upland moorland or fells, far removed from contamination of sewerage or deleterious organic decomposing matter.

The supply is constant, but a rainless or snowless winter or a continuance of dry seasons has produced more than once, a "water famine," owing to the absence of sufficient storage ponds. This should not be, as a large industrial community depends entirely upon this source. It is to be expected that the new ***Water Board*** will see to it that reservoirs are constructed sufficiently large to impound a supply of water equal to the needs of the Community depending upon them.

Our geographical position is pretty high—between 700 and 800 feet above sea level—and in "famine" time, we always experienced the shortage of water first and were the last to be relieved of our discomfort. An ***unlimited*** supply of water is an absolute necessity in order to ensure the health of the Community.

Waterclosets.

		14 1941	1919	1920
Total number of	W.C.'s	601	676	710
do	Ash-closets	1034	1041	1037
do	Ash-pit Privies	1267	1253	1244
do	Ashbins (movable)	nil	30	33

It will be seen from the above comparisons that the water carriage system, if not rapidly, is at any rate being introduced when an opportunity presents itself, and that the objectionable ashpit privies are, as they ought to be, correspondingly decreasing in number.

34 W.C.'s have been added to the district since last year.

Scavenging.

So much dissatisfaction existed during the year, as in previous years, with respect to the dilatory and evasive tactics of those employed in the scavenging of the district that it was considered advisable to re-arrange the system of work in order, if possible, to have it more efficiently and methodically carried out. The Inspector of Nuisances therefore submitted a plan which appeared to be a solution, coupled with a reasonable effort to do a fair day's work on the part of the cartman, of the difficulty. The Urban Area was divided into ten sections containing so many streets, and each cartman was assigned one of these sections. It was estimated, considering the distance of the " tips," that each cartman could remove so many loads per day, and that a record of the work done should be kept. Should the number of loads removed not reach the minimum expected in the day, an explanation had to be given. Since this method was adopted, complaints of scamped or neglected work has to a great extent ceased. Given a type of man with some sense of duty to his employer, this system should work satisfactorily.

Eleven horses are ample to do the work required, and there is no reason why any man should not do a fair day's work at the wages now paid for this unskilled labour, and working only 44 hours per week. The work is not laborious, the district is fairly compact, and the " tips " are not too distant nor difficult of access ; nor is there any reason whatever why these cartmen should not keep their carts reasonably clean, seeing that they have to travel the public streets in daylight.

I don't think it is part of a cartman's agreement that his horse should ***crawl*** along the roads when on duty ; a little more activity on the part of the horse and his driver would, I think, solve the scavenging difficulty.

I would draw the Council's attention to the fact that the ash-carts provided are of the antiquated type, heavy, clumsy and unroofed. When an opportunity offers, these carts should be disposed of and a type more adapted for the work should be purchased.

Should this system now adopted fail to fulfil expectations, the Council will then have to face the question of providing light motors for the work, if for no other reason, that in order to move at all, they must necessarily go faster than the present slow moving horse and cart arrangement.

DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

All the cowsheds in the District have been inspected in detail, many of them were found to be in a most unsatisfactory condition. Few of these places were built upon approved lines, and therefore reconstruction in many cases, in order to ensure clean and healthy milk, being necessary. The owners of all the cowsheds were invited to meet a Special Committee of the Council in the early part of the year in order to discuss the entire question of production and handling of milk and the necessity of having the byres brought up to the standard required to ensure satisfactory sanitation. With a view to assist the committee and the cowkeepers to understand thoroughly what the requirements were, the Inspector of Nuisances had the necessary information printed and a copy given to each cowkeeper. The information is herewith embodied in this Report.

As a result of this meeting, one of the largest cowsheds in the district has been re-arranged and brought up to the required standard, and four of the smaller insanitary ones have ceased to exist. The cowkeepers, and milk sellers also, understand that every care has to be taken in the "grooming" of cattle before milking, and that the same care must be taken to ensure the transferring and distribution of the milk in a cleanly fashion. A very noticeable improvement has however taken place in this direction within recent years, but this is only what would be expected.

Unwholesome Food.

The quantity of meat slaughtered for consumption in the District was :—

Beasts	1,008
Sheep	2,379
Pigs	548
Meat (Frozen)	1,196 Quarters

The following is a list of meat and organs, &c., condemned and destroyed during the year, viz.,

English Beef	1,211	lbs.
Imported Beef	2,031½	"
Imported Tripe...	48	"
Imported Oxtails	60	
Livers	12	
Lungs...	6	
Hearts	5	
Stomachs	5	
Bacon...	14	lbs.
Butter...	22	"

The above articles of food were either Tuberculous or unsound. This certainly is a large quantity of food condemned, but it indicates very forcibly how much supervision is required to safeguard the health of the Community. A large quantity of tinned meat, destroyed by the fire at the Dipton Co-operative Store, was also seized and taken possession of in order to prevent it being used by the Community. The tins became damaged, admitting air, thus endangering the quality of the food.

Milk.

The quality of the milk produced inside and that imported from outside our area is wholesome and up to the standard, no complaints having been made in respect of the milk being otherwise. The supply is fairly plentiful.

Slaughter Houses.

	1914	January, 1920	December, 1920
Registered ...	0	0	0
Licensed ...	9	9	9
Total ...	9	2	9

These places are visited regularly and are usually kept in a satisfactory condition. It is also a pleasure to state that every facility is given to inspect the places and the carcases, and the Inspector is frequently notified when any diseased or suspected carcases are discovered.

Site.—If possible, the site should be moderately high and dry ground, the building conveniently placed for the supply of fodder and roots, and the preparation and storage of feeding stuffs. To ensure ample sunlight, a South, South-East, or South-West aspect is desirable. No cowshed should have any other building erected against its side walls.

General Construction.—Walls may be of any suitable material which is plentiful in the district, stone or brick, wood is not suitable, especially when the building is small ; it adds to the cleanly appearance and sanitary efficiency of the building if the inside face of the walls is cement, finished to a smooth surface to a height of 5 ft. from floor level. To obtain sufficient cubic air space within the building, the height of walls to wall-plate should be 8 ft. 6 ins.

Roof.—Many kinds of roofing materials have been used with varying success, but for efficiency and endurance, there is nothing to surpass slates. In constructing the roof timbers, where the span does not exceed 30 ft., there is no cheaper or stronger form of support than a king-post principal for double cowshed. For narrow spans, there are several kinds of roof trusses of simple designs which can be adopted.

Floors.—The first point to be considered in connection with floor, is its height in relation to existing roadway.

The floor material should consist of good cement concrete from 4 to 6 ins. thick, the surface grooved to prevent the animal slipping. It will be found advantageous to use rammed clay for a space of 3 ft. from feeding trough, as this will enable the cows to kneel with comfort, and prevent enlarged knees—always provided the clay is kept soft, and not allowed to become as hard as the cement.

Drainage.—There ought to be no drain inlet inside the cowshed, the urine from channel should be carried off by means of 6 ins glazed pipe, which should run through the wall and discharge 1 ft. beyond over a trapped gully.

The best method to deal with the urine is to drain the same into a properly constructed cesspool, so that it may be used upon meadows.

Water Supply.—It is desirable to provide an ample supply of water to cowshed, for watering the stock, for cleaning and washing of milker's hands, &c.

Doors.—The doors for entrance and exit of cows should not be less than 4 ft. wide, hung in halves, simplicity of construction ought to be aimed at. Door frames without rebates, doors hung on frame with strong crooks and bands.

Windows.—Hopper windows are to be preferred to the trellis windows. The hopper windows allow the air to enter the cowshed without the animals feeling a draught, and also has the advantage of more light, and costs less.

Ventilation.—Ventilation is essential, therefore provision must be made for fresh air to enter the building, and foul air to escape. The best method is by providing movable cowls—for the purpose of extraction—in large cowsheds.

Internal Designs.—General Arrangement Plan No. 1 shows standing for eight cows, with two calf hutches included. The common practice is to remove calves when born to some insanitary wood shed. To obtain healthy cows, or cattle for feeding purposes, the cattle must commence life in healthy surroundings.

Council Offices,
Annfield Plain,
April, 1920.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

To the Chairman and Members of the Sub-Committee.

Gentlemen,—

In accordance with your instructions, I have censidered the matter in detail, and submit the following Report for your consideration.

The number of Cowsheds in the area is twenty-three, and the general defects found existing are Overcrowding, Defective Drainage, Ventilation, Lighting, Water Supply, and Internal Design, and absence of Proper Dairies.

It is estimated that 1½ million cows in this country are effected with Tuberculosis, and as the disease can come into our homes with the morning's milk, the question of Milk Supply is of the utmost importance.

The popular idea that Tuberculosis is hereditary was wrong ; what we do inherit, is the lack of resistance to Tubercular Germs. This disease is infectious, therefore preventable. If preventable, why not prevent it ?—to do so, the Local Authority must have complete control of the Milk Supply, Meat Supply and Housing Conditions of the People.

Having stated that Tuberculosis is preventive, I wish to refer to the action taken by the Birmingham Health Committee in 1908, at the instigation of the Medical Officer of Health.

A scheme was inaugurated for obtaining milk from cows free from Tuberculosis for the various institutions, and for children of parents willing to pay a small increase in price over that paid for milk from cows not proved to be free from Tuberculosis.

Without going into details, the scheme provided that any dairy farmer could have his cows tested by Tuberculine, by a Veterinary Surgeon, free of cost, on his undertaking to immediately isolate and subsequently dispose of reactors, to buy in only tubercle free cows, and house them only in approved, well-lighted and ventilated cowsheds. The scheme has met expectations. The result being as follows :—

Year.	Percentage of Reactors.
1908	57·7
1909	25
1910	12
1911	6
1912	2·5
1913	2
1914	1
1915-18	0

Construction of Cowsheds.

The first requirement in the production of milk for human consumption is cleanliness, and the most important factor for clean milk is a well-constructed cowshed.

In designing a cowshed, the principal details to receive consideration are the following :—Site, General Construction of Building, Internal Designs, Air Space and Floor Space.

Plan No. 1—Length, 34 ft. 6 ins. x 19 ft. 6 ins. x 8 ft. 6 ins. to wall-plate—5,491 cubic ft 600 cubic ft. per cow—8, with 691 ft. for calves. Feeding passage, 3 ft. 6 ins. wide, glazed earthenware troughs, hay racks, windows of hopper type, and roof boarded to collar-beam. Revolving cowls for extraction of foul air.

Plan No. 2—The arrangement shown on Plan 2 has a great deal to recommend it, and though the initial cost may be high, the advantages obtained may warrant the extra cost. Provisions are made for water trough at head of cows, with other necessary details.

Handling and Production of Milk.

Milk is considered the most nourishing and the most delicate of all foods; nourshing because it supplies all the constituents necessary to support life, and delicate because in practice its character gradually changes from the moment it leaves the udder of the cow. These changes are chiefly induced by micro-organisms; and as cleanliness is the main factor by which the number and species of such organisms may be kept under control, cleanliness in the handling of milk and its products is of the utmost importance.

The chief sources of contamination of milk, are dirt and dust on the cow, the milker, the air, water supply and dairy utensils.

The cow herself is one of the most fruitful sources, because these germs exist on the hair which cover the body, and many of them during milking are in some way carried into the milk.

Cows kept in a dirty, badly kept or ill-ventilated cowshed are rarely clean, her exterior, especially about the udder and hind-quarters become more or less covered with dust or dirt on which germs multiply, consequently increasing the number of organisms which fall into the milker's pail.

The milker's hands and clothes which in many cases are not too clean, and also fruitful and at times dangerous sources of infection.

The atmosphere of cowsheds in many instances is confined, with the result they contain large number of bacteria, which being slightly heavier than air, gradually settle down, and are conveyed into the milk or utensils waiting to receive it.

Many cows derive their drinking water from stagnant pools, into which they must wade before sufficient depth can be attained to enable them to drink. When drinking, cows are apt to void excreta, with results that may be imagined should such material fall into the water.

Milk Coolers.—The effect of cooling on the keeping properties of milk is well-known to all who handle milk; even coolers are liable to contamination as the milk is spread over a wide surface, and when used in dusty places, the contamination takes place through the organisms in the air, or dust falling into the milk during its passage over the cooler. The proper place for a cooler is the dairy, not as sometimes found in cowshed or grain store.

Table showing chief sources of contamination and means of avoiding same.

Sources of Contamination.		Remedy.
Cow ...	Dirty Udder ...	Wash before milking.
Milker ...	Clothes	Wear overalls.
	Hands	Wash before milking.
	Wet Milking ...	Practise dry milking.
	Illness	Those not well or who have sickness at home, should cease milking until approved by the Medical Officer.
Cowsheds	Air and Dust ...	Avoid movements of air during milking time. Milk to be removed from Cowshed immediately.
Utensils...	Milk Cans ...	Proper cleansing by boiling water.
Coolers...	...	Storage and use in clean dairies.

Pure New Milk.

	Percentage.
1—Water (average)	87·20
2—Fat—giving bodily heat	3·90
3—Casin and Albumen—flesh forming and muscle building	3·40
4—Milk Sugar—a fuel food supplying energy and fat	4·75
5—Mineral Matters—Material for blood, bone, nerves	0·75
Total	100·00

Dairies.

Dairy or Milk-Store ought not to communicate directly by door or window with any room used as a kitchen or living room where milk would be liable to be contaminated by impure air, or offensive, noxious, deleterious gas or substance, &c. No drain inlet is allowed in a dairy.

The amount of milk consumed in the Urban Area of Annfield Plain during 1919, was approximately 117,520 gallons.

ANNFIELD PLAIN.

Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders.

1——*Inspection of Cattle.*—Cattle must be inspected in all registered places.

2—*Lighting, Ventilation and Cleansing.*—(a) Sufficiently lighted with windows. (b) Properly ventilated, and for this purpose, a sufficient number of openings into external air should be provided.

3—*Cleansing.*—Ceiling or interior of roof and walls to be lime-washed twice a year, during the months of May and October, and at such other times as are necessary. Floor of cowshed to be cleaned as often as necessary, and not less than once per day.

4—*Drainage.*—No inlet of drain to be within such cowshed.

5—*Water Supply.*—Every cowkeeper shall keep in, or in connection with a cowshed, a supply of water suitable and sufficient for all purposes.

6—***Overcrowding.***—A cowkeeper shall not allow a cowshed to be occupied by a larger number of cows than will leave not less than 600 ft. of air space per cow.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order

1—Cowkeepers must be registered. Local Authority shall register, revise register when needed, give notice when registration is needed and the mode.

2—Local Authorities must be satisfied that the lighting, ventilation, air space, cleansing and drainage of premises are such as are necessary or proper for :—

(a) Health and good condition of cattle therein ;
(b) Cleansing of vessels ;
(c) Guarding against the contamination of milk from infectious disease.

3—No infected person to take part in the trade.

4—No cesspool, privy, etc., to ventilate or open into diary.

5—Shops, etc., not to be used as sleeping place nor in any way to interfere with the necessary cleanliness.

6—Regulations are to be made by Local Authorities.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases reported in 1920.

		Number Notified	Parish of Kyo	Parish of Greencroft (Within)	Parish of Collierley	Removal to Hospital
1	Diphtheria	171	101	29	41	168
2	Erysipelas	13	5	2	6	
3	Enteric	0	0	0	0	
4	Malaria	1	1	0	0	
5	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	2	1	1	
6	Pneumonia	7	4	0	3	
7	Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	0	0	
8	Pulmonary ... (a) Tuberculosis	15	6	2	7	
	(b) Other Forms	6	2	0	4	
9	Scarlet Fever ...	62	20	5	27	
		280	152	39	89	168

As it is desirable that all cases, particularly diphtheria cases, should, when notified to the M.O.H., be removed to Hospital as quickly as possible, the Joint Hospital Board has now made arrangements to have patients removed by Motor Ambulance in place of the slower method of horse ambulance. This ought to be an improvement on the old method and an advantage to the patient.

Comparative Figures.

		Diphtheria,	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric.
1912	...	18	42	10
1913	...	31	49	7
1914	...	21	92	2
1915	...	32	23	4
1916	...	34	40	5
1617	...	38	42	1
1918	...	25	64	0
1919	...	103	90	2
1920	...	171	62	0

The above figures indicate clearly that Diphtheria is gaining ground in our District, while Scarlet Fever, with an occasional filip, remains fairly stationary and evenly distributed over the years. Enteric, which was at one time a common and dreaded disease in our midst, is now almost extinct.

The rapid increase in the number of Diphtheria cases notified points to the possibility of "carriers" among the school children.

There are 11 schools in or bordering on our District, and one can imagine the dangers which surround children in overcrowded class-rooms when a "carrier" of the disease is among them, and in addition to that, we must admit that some of our schools have not been kept as sanitary or cleanly as they might be. There appeared to be a lack of supervision over those responsible for the care and cleaning of the schools. Possibly there may be too many authorities responsible, hence the neglect.

Anti-toxin is supplied free to the medical practitioners in the District. Advantage has not been taken of the gratuitous supply to the extent it might. One of the reasons may be that, when notifying the M.O.H., the general practitioner usually states whether the parents are willing to allow the patient to be removed to Hospital or not, thus avoiding any unnecessary loss of time in making enquiries before removing.

Disinfection.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	Number.	Remarks.
Lots of Infectious Bedding disinfected	211	Scarlet, Diphtheria.
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ...	211	
Schools „ „ ...	1	Dipton School & Library Books disinfected
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things	NONE	
Convictions for „ „ ...	NONE	

Disinfection of clothes and bedding—in order to prevent the spread of disease—has always been a difficult question, especially with respect to the smaller houses and the poorer people. There are no alternative rooms, or sometimes a reserve of clothing or bedding to allow of disinfecting rooms and clothing as efficiently as should be, therefore proper disinfection in some cases is impossible. Disinfecting fluids and powders may be used in abundance, the rooms and bedding may be sprayed to dewiness, but these are valueless unless the contents of the rooms are removed and thoroughly "steamed" in a proper Steam Chamber.

It is very difficult to convince, not only the people directly concerned, who cling to old methods and place unlimited faith in a bottle of crude disinfectant, but those in authority, to use the most effective methods of stamping out disease, or at any rate curtailing its spread when it becomes established. A powerful steam disinfecting apparatus is undoubtedly the most effective means we possess of destroying the germs of disease when introduced into bedding, woollen or other clothing.

The question of establishing a Disinfection Station in this area should be considered apart from Hospitals. Several districts could combine in this matter and establish a Central Station, and in the course of a few years it would be found that by removing the chief cause of multiple cases of infection in houses, and the general spread of the disease, the saving to the ratepayers would cover the expense of establishing the Station.

In the event of a severe epidemic, such as Smallpox, which is quite possible in presence of the inefficient Vaccination of the Community, the amount expended in compensation for destruction of clothing, bedding, &c., and the general expense of combating the disease, would soon exceed the cost and upkeep of a Disinfector, apart from the consequent loss and suffering caused to the community. The present campaign against Tuberculosis renders the provision of a Steam Disinfector more necessary than ever.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Staff.—Medical Officer of Health.
Inspector of Nuisances.
Surveyor and his Assistant (pro tem).
Architectural Assistant
1 General Clerk.

Adoptive Acts.

The following Adoptive Acts are in force in the District, viz :—

1.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890.
2.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5.
3.—Private Street Works Act, 1892.
4.—Public Libraries Act.
5.—Baths and Wash-houses Acts.
6.—Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, Part vii., Section 86, (Police)

Isolation Hospitals.

Annfield Plain Council forms one of the constituent authorities of the Lanchester Joint Hospital Board.

There are five hospitals under its control, viz. :—

Tanfield, Leadgate and Langley Park for diphtheria, scarlet fever and enteric cases ; ***Howden Bank*** for small-pox, and ***Maiden Law,*** (formerly a small-pox hospital), is now used as a Sanatorium for the treatment of phthisis and used exclusively for patients sent by the County Council.

The hospital accommodation, except during severe epidemics, is ample for the area of the Joint Hospital Board.

Bacteriological Examinations.

The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent in by medical practitioners in the District for examination during the year, in accordance with the arrangement made between the C.C. and the Durham C. of Medicine.

	Number of Specimens Submitted.	RESULTS.		
		Positive.	Negative.	Inconclusive.
Diphtheria	6	2	4	0
Enteric Fever...	0	0	0	0
Phthisis (sputum)	9	3	6	0
TOTALS ...	15	5	10	0

Bacteriological examination of blood, sputum and excretions of patients is of the greatest value in clearing up the diagnosis of doubtful cases of certain infectious diseases.

HOUSING.

The average number per annum of houses built in the District since its formation in 1896 to 1914 was 76, but soon after the outbreak of war, building operations ceased altogether, houses steadily deteriorated, owing to the scarcity of men and material, with the nett result that we are now faced with a house 'famine' and a greater number of insanitary dwellings than is compatable with our ideas of what sanitary progress should be, and moreover, with the requirements of our Housing and Public Health Acts. Overcrowding has also increased, owing to the increased number of marriages since the war.

To meet the requirements of the District, the Council has put into operation the powers which they possess in order to remedy the evil of house shortage, as they recognize that every other effort to improve the health of the community is nullified by the absence of suitable accommodation.

Until there is a sufficiency of houses, it is impossible to move in any direction.

Overcrowding cannot be tackled or mitigated, nor can we, until there is *alternative accommodation*, insist upon owners to repair houses which are capable of being repaired, particularly where structural alterations are necessary.

The housing problem was not overlooked by the Council. As far back as 1912 the Council made a commencement to remedy the increasing evils of house shortage, with the result that by the end of 1914, 64 new houses were erected in Catchgate; by the end of 1916, 8 additional houses were completed, but owing to the embargo placed on building material and the difficulty in procuring skilled workmen during the war, further progress was impossible. The Council, however, foresaw that something very tangible had to be done when the war concluded and the soldiers returned to their homes. With the passing of the war, many long cherished customs, ideas and traditions would pass into limbo, that the people's outlook upon life and things in general would be materially altered.

Steps were now immediately taken to acquire land, and New Ewehurst was purchased in order to proceed with building operations as quickly as possible.

Under the New Housing Act, which was passed in the meantime, Councils were asked to make a survey of their districts and submit a complete scheme to the Ministry of Health.

The following scheme was submitted for approval :—

To meet the unsatisfied demand for houses (taking account of growth of population, overcrowding, etc.)	400
Re-house persons to be displaced by the clearance of two unhealthy areas ...	142
Replace other dwellings which are unfit for human habitation and cannot be made fit	103
Replace back-to-back houses to be converted into through houses ...	55
Total	700

The following sites for buildings have been agreed upon by the Council, viz.,

	Acres.	Houses.
New Ewehurst	8½	91
Catchgate	10	101
West Kyo Lane	11	115
Greencroft (in front of Loud Reservoir)...	13	142
The Avenue, Dipton	9	90
Loud Hill (behind Loud Terrace) ...	16	145
		684

The scheme of New Ewehurst, after some delay, owing to the difficulty in procuring skilled labour, is now proceeding very satisfactorily, and it is anticipated that the Catchgate scheme will be proceeded with very soon, the laying out of the sites, roads and drainage, is now under way. All the building schemes are done by "direct labour," that is to say by the Council directly.

It is impossible to say when the entire building scheme will be completed, so many unforeseen obstacles may arise to delay or prevent the rapid progress of the work, but it is the genuine desire of the Council to accomplish as expeditiously as possible that which they have set their hands to.

Housing Conditions.

Statistics. Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—GENERAL.

(1) Estimated population	16,781
(2) General death-rate	12·81
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	0·36
(4) Infantile mortality	125·00
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	3,258
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	3,188
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	2

2.—UNFIT DWELLING-HOUSES.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	264
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910...	264
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	12
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	55

II.—Remedy of Defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ...	61

III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A. *Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(*a*) by owners...	3
(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	1
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

B. *Proceedings under Public Heath Acts.*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	36
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—	
(*a*) by owners	30
(*b*) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C. *Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	25
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	25
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	0

3.—UNHEALTHY AREAS.

Areas represented to the Local authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (*a*), Part I., or (*b*), Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

(1) Name of area	Annfield Place and Clavering Place
(2) Acreage	10·8
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	142
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced ...	695

4.—Number of houses not complying with the building erected with consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 0

5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer

Surveyor and his Assistant *(pro tem)*
1 Architectural Assistant
1 General Clerk

ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. 1	Number of Inspections. 2	Number of Written Notices. 3	Number of Prosecutions. 4
Factories (including Factory Laundries ...	6	1	NONE
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	21	6	NONE
Workplaces	—	—	—
Total	27	7	NONE

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. 1	Number of Defects. Found. 2	Number of Defects. Remedied. 3	Number of Defects. Referred to H.M. Inspector. 4	Number of of Prosecutions 5
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—				
Want of Cleanliness	7	7	1	NONE
Total	7	7	1	NONE

3.—Home Work.

NIL.

4.—Registered Workshops.

I	Number 2
Tailoring	2
Millinery	5
Shoemaking	5
Blacksmiths	3
Joinery	5
Retail Bakehouses	5
Saddlery	2
Hosiery	1
Motor Repairs	1
Clock and Watch Repairing	1
Total number of Workshops on Register ...	30

Factories 6

Register of Drapers.	Fabric's Misdescription Act, 1913.	
No. of Shops	Visits.	Persecutions
20	18	nil

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., Etc.,
Medical Officer of Health.

April, 1921.